



june 9, 2015

hartford street zc news

Yanyang's "thing"

Playing with reflections, struggling for the form, you don't recognize that the form is the source of the reflection. Raising your voice to stop an echo, you don't know the voice is the root of the echo. If it's not riding an ox looking off an ox, then it's using a wedge to remove a wedge. How can you avoid extremes?



Venerable Yanyang asked Zhaozhou, "When not a single thing is brought, then what?"

Zhaozhou said, "put it down."

Yanyang said, "If I don't bring a single thing, what should I put down?"

Zhaozhou said, "Then carry it out."

Verse

***Not prepared for
meticulous action, he loses
to the first move---***

***Realizing himself the
coarseness of his mind, he's embarrassed at bumping his head.***

When the game is ended, the axe handle's rotted at his side:

Clean and purify the ordinary bones to play with the immortals.

public schedule

mondays
 *7:00 am zazen
 *7:40 am morning chanting service
 *last monday of each month, no morning schedule
 6:00 pm zazen
 6:40 pm evening chanting service

tuesdays - fridays

The Book of Serenity, One Hundred Zen Dialogues Tr. by Thomas Cleary



upcoming events:

dharma talks @10:15am saturdays

hszc speakers

Myō Lahey - jun 27 jul 11,18

Dharma Colloquy, Peer Student Discussion - jun 13 (rev myo with ASZB)

Daiko Tanzen, David Bullock - jul 25

guest speakers - **Ryuko, Laura Burges** - jun 20; **Anshi Daigi, Zachary Smith** - jul 11; **Dale Borglum** - aug 15; **Anshi Daigi, Zachary Smith** - sept 19; **Laura Burges** - oct 17; **Fugan, Eugene Bush** - nov 14; **Ryuei, Michael McCormick** - dec 12

full moon ceremony - **saturday, june 27th** - July is normally the month when the new antlers of buck deer push out of their foreheads in coatings of velvety fur. It was also often called the Full Thunder Moon, for the reason that thunderstorms are most frequent during this time. Another name for this month's Moon was the Full Hay Moon

garden work period - **saturday, june 13th & june 27; noon to 3pm**- We are looking for assistance with a short garden work period from Noon to 3pm on June 13th and June 27th. We will primarily focused on the irrigation re-configuring for water conservation and some tidying up. Please join us if you can!

study hour - thursdays @7:30pm: the Vimalakīrti Sūtra. we can share books for anyone who wants to join in, or feel free to purchase a copy and join us (many are very low cost online, we focus on [Dr Thurman's version](#)). check our twitter page for any last minute changes in schedule.

closure & schedule changes -

no morning (only) zazen & chanting/service on the **last monday** of every month.

july 4th - closed EXCEPT a July 4th Picnic/Pot Luck event

6:00 am zazen
6:40 am kinhin (walking meditation)
6:50 am zazen
7:20 am chanting service
7:40 am soji (brief temple cleaning)

6:00 pm zazen
6:40 pm chanting service

thursdays study hour 7:30pm

saturdays

6:30 am zazen
7:10 am chanting service
7:25 am soji
8:30 am drop-in instruction
9:25 am zazen
10:15 am dharma talk
11:00 am refreshments/social*

** if a ceremony applies it will occur before social time*

July 4th pot luck, picnic - 3pm: We will provide veggie burgers, potato salad and beverages and ask you bring your favorite picnic food. Please let us know if you plan to attend so we can have enough of what we will provide. Shoot us an email at: hszc108@yahoo.com or let David know in person.

founder monthly memorials - [Issan's](#) is the 6th of each month and [Philip's](#) is the 26th (or closest dates to these if can't be on that day) evenings at 6:40pm or saturday mornings

practice discussions at hszc are available with both Rev. Myo Lahey & Rev. Daiko Tanzen, David Bullock. please call us, contact them directly, or email: hszc108@yahoo.com to request to schedule time.



image on the [global soto zen website](#) (likely about 2006 in December- Rohatsu/Winter Lights retreat)

words from our Abbot: Rev. Myō Lahey

I was reflecting that there's a kind of body-mind that's made of cricket noises. In order to appreciate this body-mind and its emergence sometimes a certain kind of cultivation is not exactly necessary, but helpful. I don't think we can say it's necessary, but it's sometimes helpful



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to cultivate or practice in a way that encourages our natural silence.

It actually as some of you may have noticed, it takes quite a bit of energy to maintain a “person” and particularly in retreat circumstances the opportunity for maintaining the “person” are reduced. What becomes, or what could be an impossible burden like sitting still for a week; this is something people who are institutionalized do.

That becomes actually possible and extremely energizing, because the energy committed to the “person” slowly is withdrawn, not deliberately, it just happens. And we stop feeding our “little friend”. So the little friend gets skinny and weak. And much that is extraneous falls away and then we see there is a kind of an inherent silence or maybe stillness is a better word. Not artificially imposed or constructed but allowed to blossom. You don't have to be on retreat to do this; you don't have to be a Zen Student even. It's just that some people have found some ways that are helpful to allow this blossoming to happen.

From the outside though it looks sometimes, not very attractive. People can get, well they look kind of, dead, sitting there and you go into the zendo and rrrrhhh, and nobody is moving they could be dead and you'd hardly know until they finally fell over. And so they call the Zen hall sometimes the dead tree hall. Just a bunch of dead trees sitting there.

[talk at Tassajara sept 9, 2009](#)



where's Rin?

On her walk across the U.S. to raise awareness of Environmental Issues...



[Click here to find out!](#)

From Rin's most recent post:

I have dodged, waited out, walked and camped through lots of rain storms in these last weeks. But I was not quite prepared for yesterday's storm, which was billed as 'scattered thundershowers' at the last forecast 'check-in' before I left the Border Inn. (This establishment straddles the state line, as well as two time zones. You can sleep in Utah, and drink and gamble in Nevada, all in the same place!)

hszc history - In June 2007 HSZC newsletter, originally published 1996-1997:

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Zen Talks - By Philip Whalen

Life and death. That's what it's really about. We live in the midst of dying and die in the midst of living. We go through our lives picking up all kinds of things and calling it "me." We become very fond of this creation-life and inanimate matter all glued together.

I live at the Hartford Street Zen Center. There is a hospice here for folks living with AIDS. Everyone is perishing slowly. I can understand a little bit about what they are going through-that the end is not far away-because I am not well myself. Guys who are there and terribly ill are alive and know what is happening-that it's the end of the moving, that if you stop moving you're dead.

It's very real when we watch friends fade and perish. Very difficult because we want to keep things as they are. But unless you experience your own death-you are lost. Really get close to it. What we are actually doing is dying all the time. Dying is an action. Ask, "Who is living? Who is dying?" And when you go to the zendo ask, "Why am I here?"

Sangha Spotlight - Paul Lee

*with Paul in the temple garden, **part 1***

Q: How did you first come to Hartford Street Zen Center?

A: Indie. Do you remember Indie? Steve Fricke. he was on the board here at one time. Strawberry red hair. Always wore Hawaiian shirts & shorts to zazen. I met him at my hiking club (SF Hiking Club). And I told him I used to meditate at Zen Center but I had sort of gotten away from meditating. And he said, "you should go to HSZC. It's a very friendly place." Probably 10 years ago. And when I came here, the first priest that I met (he died), The one that used to go to Folsom Prison and work with the prisoners there... John King. He greeted me and he was so friendly. And then i saw that you could sit in chairs here too. There were three things right off - Indie, John King & chairs!



Indie. I used to see him at the hiking club and went on camping trips. John King I really never got to know that well because he got very sick shortly after i began to come here. (Died 2006)

Q: and then Indie died too

A: Yes, Indie died too. That was very sad because he had called me about a week before and wanted to know if I wanted to go hiking with Gypsy (my dog). I was doing something else that day so i couldn't go. And then he died. It was very sad for me.



Q: And you also have a connection with Issan, is that right?



A: No. I never met Issan. My only connection with Issan is that he once worked drag shows many many years ago in Chicago with Vicki Marlane. Vicki later became a roommate of mine.

[Vickie Video](#)
[Vickie Blog info](#)

Q: So John disappears, I mean dies and Indie dies, but you stayed.

A: Yes, i stayed. I liked doing zazen. And I used to have a very stressful job. And would be very stressed out after work so I would come here and sit. Then I'd walk out and hear the birds singing & leaves rustling & that sort of thing (laughter)!

Q: Were you involved with hospice work at all at that point?

A: No. That's only been the last two years this November that I've been doing that. (to be coninued...)

*Hear the Salutation to the Dawn:
 Pay attention to this day,
 For it is Life, the essence of life,
 In its brief course lie all the troubles
 and vestiges of our existence:
 the bliss of growth,
 the splendor of beauty,
 the sorrow of loss.
 For yesterday is only a memory,
 and tomorrow but a vision.
 Yet, today, well spent
 makes every yesterday a memory of contentment,
 and every tomorrow a vision of hope.
 Pay close attention, therefore, to this day.
 Such is the salutation to the dawn.
 S.F. Price, inspired by an ancient Buddhist prayer*

HIV meditation group; weekly meditation group for those living with HIV, their friends, families, community supporters & anyone who wants to join us!
 thursdays & fridays
 10:30am zazen
 11:00am garden socializing

meditation in recovery; weekly meditation group for men & women in recovery from addiction
 fridays, 7:30pm - 9pm

(women only) meditation in recovery; monthly meditation group for women in recovery from addiction
 first thurs, 7:15pm -8:45pm

(men only) meditation in recovery; a monthly meeting for men in recovery from addiction
 3rd thurs of every month, 7:30pm-8:30pm

board of director meetings; you're invited to attend & observe!
 second weds of each month, 7:30pm



*please contact us for rental space & events, ceremonies performed by a zen priest
 - weddings, memorials, coming of age & baby naming events*

find other sf bay area lgbtqqi community events [here](#) - or - [here](#)

national, worldwide & other, holidays [here](#) (*warning* some are pretty silly)



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**Abbot, hartford street zen center --
 - Reverend Myō Lahey ---**



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 & equanimous! _/|_***

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